CITY OF COLUMBUS

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COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2002

Issued by

CITY AUDITOR HUGH J. DORRIAN

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2002

Issued by: City Auditor's Office

Hugh J. Dorrian, CPA City Auditor



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Introductory Section

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2002

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CITY OF COLUMBUS

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April 28, 2003

To the Citizens of the City of Columbus, Ohio

The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) of the City of Columbus, Ohio (the City) for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002 is hereby presented to its citizens by their City Auditor, statutorily described as the City's chief accounting officer.

INTRODUCTION

The City's Charter states, "The auditor shall be an elector of the City, and be elected for a term of four years . . ." The Charter also sets forth the auditor's powers and duties and states, in part:

The auditor shall be the city's chief accounting officer. He shall keep, in accurate, systematized detail a record of the receipts, disbursements, assets, and liabilities of the city, and the recorded facts shall be presented periodically to officials and to the public in such summaries and analytical schedules as shall be necessary to show the full effect of such transactions for each fiscal year upon the finances of the city and in relation to each department of the city government, including distinct summaries and schedules for each public utility owned or operated.

This report fulfills these duties and is distributed to approximately 500 recipients, which include civic associations, banks, brokers, rating agencies, schools, libraries, university students and city, state and federal officials. This report is also available on the City's website. The Internet address is http://www.cityofcolumbus.org.

The City's management, defined and described in the following paragraph, is responsible for the accuracy of the data contained in this report. The responsibility for completeness, fairness of presentation, and full disclosure of the data also rests with the City's management.

The management:

The City's management consists of a Mayor, seven-member Council, City Auditor, and City Attorney. These officials are elected for four-year terms on an at-large basis. The Mayor and four Council members are elected in an odd numbered year. Three Council members, the City Auditor, and the City Attorney are elected in the following odd numbered year. The City's Charter also provides for appointments and elections of successors to these officials if they should, for any reason, vacate their office. All are chosen through a non-partisan election process.

In addition to the elected officials, certain others are major participants in the City's management. The Director of the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Health Commissioner, the Civil Service Executive Secretary, and the Secretary of the Sinking Fund are appointed by, and report to, independent Commissions. All of these Commission members are appointed by the Mayor and are subject to confirmation by the Council. The financial activities of these Commissions (budgets, expenditures, etc.) are subject to approval by the Council and are, therefore, included in this report. The City's Treasurer and Clerk to the Council are appointed by, and serve at, the pleasure of the Council.

The Mayor's cabinet, appointed by him and serving at his pleasure, is not subject to confirmation by the Council. In 2002 the cabinet consisted of the directors of the departments of Public Safety, Public Service, Finance, Public Utilities, Development, Technology, Equal Business Opportunity, Human Resources, and Community Relations.

The City Auditor believes that, to the best of his knowledge, the data contained in this report present fairly the financial position and results of operations of the various funds of the City. All necessary disclosures are included in this report to enable the citizens and other readers to understand the City's financial activities.

The report:

This transmittal letter is designed to provide historical information about the City, as well as compliment the required Management's Discussion and Analysis (discussed below). Unless noted otherwise, the financial data in this transmittal letter is presented on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Generally accepted accounting principles require that management provide a narrative introduction, overview, and analysis to accompany the basic financial statements in the form of Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A). The City's MD&A, which focuses on the government-wide statements, can be found on page 47 of this report.

This Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) is designed in a manner to assist and guide the reader in understanding its contents. The report consists of four sections:

- The Introductory Section, which includes this letter of transmittal, contains information pertinent to the City's management and organization. References in this section to Note A, Note B, etc., are to Notes to the Financial Statements contained in the Financial Section of this report.
- The Financial Section contains the Independent Auditor's Report, Management's Discussion and Analysis, Basic Financial Statements, Required Supplementary Information and various other Statements and Schedules pertaining to the City's funds and activities.
- The Statistical Section contains numerous tables of financial and demographic information. Much of this information is shown with comparative data for the ten-year period from 1993 through 2002. Also in this section are data necessary to meet the disclosure requirements of Rule 15c2-12(b)(5)(i)(C) and (D) of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).
- The Single Audit Section, in accordance with the federal Single Audit Act of 1996, includes the following:
 - Independent Auditors' Report on Compliance and on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting Based on the Audit Performed in Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards*
 - Independent Auditors' Report on Compliance With Requirements Applicable to Each Major Program, Internal Control Over Compliance and Schedule of Receipts and Expenditures of Federal, State, and County Awards
 - Schedule of Receipts and Expenditures of Federal, State, and County Awards
 - · Notes to Schedule of Receipts and Expenditures of Federal, State, and County Awards
 - Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs

The reporting entity:

Columbus was first organized as a borough in 1816 and subsequently became a city on March 3, 1834. The City is a home-rule municipal corporation operating under the laws of Ohio. The City's Charter, its constitution, can only be amended by a majority of the City's voters. It has been amended many times since its original adoption in 1914, most recently on November 2, 1999. The laws of the State of Ohio prevail when conflicts exist between the Charter and the state constitution and in matters where the Charter is silent.

Columbus, Ohio's capital city, is located in the central part of the state, approximately 150 miles south of Cleveland and 110 miles northeast of Cincinnati. The City's elevation is approximately 777 feet above sea level. Inter and intra state highways I-70, I-71, I-270, and I-670 serve as some of the City's major transportation arteries. The Ohio State University, with 49,676 students on its Columbus campus, is located near the center of the City. Columbus was ranked as the nation's 16th largest city as a result of the 1990 census, and 15th as a result of the 2000 Census.

Some comparative data for Ohio's six largest cities follow. Population estimates for 1980, 1990 and 2000 are from the U.S. Bureau of Census. The Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission estimates Columbus' population at 726,601 at December 31, 2002. The respective cities' management provided area data as of December 31, 2002.

		Population			
<u>City</u>	Area	2000	<u>1990</u>	<u>1980</u>	
Columbus	221.2 sq. mi.	711,470	632,910	565,021	
Cleveland	77.9 sq. mi.	478,403	505,616	573,822	
Cincinnati	78.8 sq. mi.	331,285	364,040	385,410	
Toledo	84.2 sq. mi.	313,619	332,943	354,635	
Akron	62.0 sq. mi.	217,074	223,019	237,177	
Dayton	56.3 sq. mi.	166,179	182,044	193,536	

The accompanying financial statements comply with the provisions of Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 14, *The Financial Reporting Entity*, and Statement No. 39, *Determining Whether Certain Organizations are Component Units*, in that the financial statements include all the organizations, activities, functions and the component unit, the Columbus Municipal Airport Authority (CMAA), for which the City, the reporting entity, is financially accountable. Financial accountability is defined as the appointment of a voting majority of the component unit's board, and either (1) the City's ability to impose its will over the component unit, or (2) the possibility that the component unit will provide a financial benefit to or impose a financial burden on the City. On this basis, the reporting entity of the City includes the following services to its citizens as authorized by its charter: public service (refuse collection, street engineering and construction, traffic engineering and parking, etc.), public safety (fire, police, etc.), development, health, recreation and parks, and public utilities. In addition, the City owns and operates four enterprise activities: a Water system, a Sanitary sewer system, a Storm sewer and drainage system, and an Electricity distribution system; financial activities for which are contained in this report. Water and sanitary sewer services are metropolitan in nature and reach far beyond the City's corporate boundaries. The City does not operate schools or hospitals, nor is it responsible for public assistance programs.

Other entities included in this report and further explained in Notes A and Q are:

Component Unit:

• Columbus Municipal Airport Authority (CMAA)

Joint Ventures:

- The Franklin Park Conservatory Joint Recreation District
- Columbus/Franklin County Affordable Housing Trust Corporation

The reporting standards:

The City's accounts are organized as funds. Each fund is a separate accounting entity with its own self-balancing set of accounts, assets, liabilities, and fund equity. In 2002 the City had 87 governmental funds (3 major and 84 non major); 10 business type funds (4 enterprise and 6 internal service) and 18 agency funds. Following are the titles of these funds with a brief description.

Governmental funds:

General Fund - The General Fund is the general operating fund of the City. It is used to account for all financial resources traditionally associated with government which are not required to be accounted for in another fund.

Special Revenue Funds - Special Revenue Funds are used to account for revenues derived from specific taxes, grants, or other restricted revenue sources. City ordinances or Federal or State statutes specify the uses and limitations of each Special Revenue Fund. During 2002 the City had 40 Special Revenue Funds.

Debt Service Funds - Debt Service Funds are used to account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of, general long-term debt principal, interest, and related costs. During 2002 the City had 11 Debt Service Funds.

Capital Projects Funds - Capital Projects Funds are used to account for financial resources used for the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities other than those financed by proprietary funds. During 2002 the City had 35 Capital Projects Funds.

Permanent Funds – Permanent funds are for the purpose of accounting for resources that are legally restricted to the extent that earnings, and not principal, may be used for purposes that support the reporting governments. The City does not have any permanent funds.

Proprietary funds:

Enterprise Funds - Enterprise funds are used to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises; where the intent of the governing body is that the costs of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges. The City has four separate enterprise funds for its Water, Sanitary Sewers, Storm Sewers and Electricity distribution services.

Internal Service Funds - Internal service funds are used to account for the financing of goods or services provided by one division or agency to other divisions or agencies of the government, generally on a cost reimbursement basis. The City has six internal service funds.

Fiduciary funds:

Agency Funds - Agency Funds are used to account for assets held by the government as an agent for individuals, private organizations, other governments and/or other funds. The City had 18 Agency Funds during 2002. The City does not have any trust funds.

Bases of accounting:

Except for budgetary purposes, the bases of accounting used by the City conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applicable to governmental units and are consistent with GASB Cod. Sec. 1600, *Basis of Accounting*. All governmental funds are accounted for using a current financial resources-current assets and current liabilities-measurement focus. The modified accrual basis of accounting is utilized for governmental and agency funds. Revenues are recognized when they are susceptible to accrual (both measurable and available). Expenditures are recognized when the related liability is incurred, except for interest on long-term debt which is recorded when due.

The measurement focus on the City's proprietary funds is on the flow of total economic resources (all assets and liabilities). The accrual basis of accounting (revenues are recognized when earned and expenses when incurred) is utilized by the City in its proprietary funds.

The City's basis of accounting for budgetary purposes differs from GAAP in that revenues are recognized when received, rather than when susceptible to accrual (measurable and available), and encumbrances are included as expenditures rather than as reservations of fund balances.

For the year ended December 31, 2001, the City changed its financial reporting to comply with GASB Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis for State and Local Governments*. The government-wide financial statements, including governmental activities, in order to comply with GASB Statement No. 34, are presented on the full accrual basis of accounting. As part of the implementation of GASB Statement No. 34, the City opted for early implementation of infrastructure reporting. In doing so, the historical cost of infrastructure assets (retroactive to 1979) is included as part of the governmental capital assets reported in the government-wide statement. Thus, the depreciated value of construction costs for road, curbs and gutters and streets and sidewalks is reported. In conjunction with the implementation of GASB 34, the City opted for early implementation of GASB Statement No. 38, *Certain Financial Statement Note Disclosures*, which rescinds some and modifies other financial statement disclosure requirements. Accounting policies are further explained in Note A.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND EMPLOYMENT

The traditional stability of the City's economy continued to be severely tested in 2002. Average annual unemployment rates (4.4%) for 2002 continued to be well below the State of Ohio (5.7%) and the United States (5.8%) rates. The following data from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services is a five-year history of unemployment rates for Franklin County (by month) and the Annual Average Rates for Franklin County, the State of Ohio and the United States.

	-	Unemployment Rates				
	(%,	(%, except for Average Columbus MSA employment base)				
Franklin County:	2002	2001	2000	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	
January	4.0	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.7	
February	4.2	2.4	2.7	2.6	2.6	
March	4.4	2.2	2.6	2.5	2.6	
April	4.3	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.2	
May	4.5	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.5	
June	5.0	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.8	
July	4.5	2.7	2.4	2.5	2.3	
August	4.6	2.9	2.5	2.6	2.4	
September	4.8	3.2	2.7	2.8	2.7	
October	4.5	3.0	2.4	2.6	2.5	
November	4.4	3.3	2.3	2.4	2.4	
December	4.1	3.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	
Annual Average Rates:						
Franklin County	4.4	2.8	2.4	2.5	2.5	
State of Ohio	5.7	4.3	4.1	4.3	4.3	
United States	5.8	4.8	4.0	4.2	4.5	
Average Columbus MSA employment	843,900	850,900	847,100	808,000	805,400	

The February 2003 Franklin County unemployment rate was 5.0%. This rate is the most recent data available.

The City's General Fund balance (budget basis) reached an all time historic high at calendar year 1999 of \$70.880 million. It declined in 2000 to \$65.838 million, rebounded in 2001 to \$67.216 million, but declined again in 2002 to \$50.368 million.

Income tax collections (budget basis of accounting where revenues are cash collected less refunds) decreased .29% in 2002 over the comparable amount in 2001. This decrease was the first such year to year decrease in income tax revenues since 1961. Income tax revenues on the modified accrual basis of accounting for 2002 increased .13% compared to 2001.

The City continues to maintain assets within the General Fund designated for future year's expenditures. The City increased these amounts in 2002. This portion of the General Fund consists of unencumbered cash and accrued interest receivable in two subfunds contained in the General Fund. These subfunds, available for General Fund purposes at the discretion of Council, are the Economic Stabilization Fund (the "rainy day" fund) and the Anticipated Expenditure Fund. Council determined in 1994 that the Economic Stabilization Fund is entitled to a proportionate share of interest earnings from the City's investment pool described in this letter under Cash Management and in Note C. The amounts in these subfunds over the last ten years follow:

Economic	Anticipated	
Stabilization	Expenditure	
Fund	Fund	Total
\$ 7,500,000	\$ -	\$ 7,500,000
8,593,936	300,000	8,893,936
10,169,809	1,050,000	11,219,809
11,886,543	1,800,000	13,686,543
13,659,256	2,550,000	16,209,256
22,891,219	8,919,754	31,810,973
24,021,070	9,639,070	33,660,140
25,718,910	9,802,237	35,521,147
27,331,828	10,552,237	37,884,065
28,270,869	11,302,237	39,573,106
	Stabilization Fund \$ 7,500,000 8,593,936 10,169,809 11,886,543 13,659,256 22,891,219 24,021,070 25,718,910 27,331,828	Stabilization Expenditure Fund Fund \$ 7,500,000 \$ - 8,593,936 300,000 10,169,809 1,050,000 11,886,543 1,800,000 13,659,256 2,550,000 22,891,219 8,919,754 24,021,070 9,639,070 25,718,910 9,802,237 27,331,828 10,552,237

No expenditures have ever been made from the Economic Stabilization Fund. A portion of the Economic Stabilization Fund will be used for General Fund operations in 2003. None of the Anticipated Expenditure Fund will be used.

Employment in the Greater Columbus Area continues to be service oriented. Nine of the top fourteen (14) largest employers in the Columbus area are government or government-oriented (the State of Ohio, The Ohio State University, Ohio State University Hospitals, United States Postal Service, Defense Supply Center – Columbus, Defense Finance and Accounting Service – Columbus, Columbus Public Schools, City of Columbus and Franklin County). The fifty largest employers in the Greater Columbus area are shown in the Statistical Section of this report. These major employers, representing government, insurance, public utilities, manufacturing, retail, banking, research, medical and services, provide a broad and diverse employment base.

Employee relations:

The City's employee relations are established largely in association with the following labor organizations:

• American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Locals 1632 and 2191. (www.afscme.org)

AFSCME has approximately 2,481 members among the City's 5,424 civilian employees. AFSCME has, however, bargaining rights for approximately 2,851 of these employees. The current labor agreement between the City and AFSCME was effective April 1, 2002 and continues through March 31, 2005.

• Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) (www.fop9.org)

FOP has bargaining rights for all of the City's police officers except for the chief and his five deputy chiefs. Of the City's 1,827 police officers, 1,749 are members of the FOP. The contract between the City and FOP had an expiration date of December 8, 2002, but will continue in force while current negotiations continue.

• International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) (www.iaff.org)

IAFF has bargaining rights for all the City's firefighters except for the chief and one of his five assistant chiefs. Membership in the IAFF includes 1,478 of a total 1,534 firefighters. The current contract was effective June 1, 2001 and continues through May 31, 2004.

 Columbus Municipal Association of Government Employees; Communication Workers of America, Local 4502 (CMAGE/CWA)

CMAGE/CWA has approximately 633 members and has bargaining rights for approximately 1,272 of the 5,424 civilian employees. The current contract was effective August 24, 2002 and continues through August 23, 2005.

Under Ohio's Collective Bargaining Act, if members of the police or fire division cannot reach agreement with the City they "shall submit the matter to a final offer settlement procedure." This requirement of Ohio law is referred to as a "no-strike" or "binding arbitration" provision. Other employees are permitted to strike under Ohio law after giving proper notification.

MAJOR INITIATIVES

CURRENT PROJECTS AND SERVICE EFFORTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

• Retaining financial strength of the City

The Mayor, keenly aware of national and local economic conditions, has devoted much attention and action to maintaining the City's financial strength. Following are extracted from his Economic Advisory Committee Report which has already resulted in certain legislation being enacted by the Council.

The Committee was comprised of:

Anthony Chan, Ph.D., Senior Managing Director and Chief Economist for BankOne Investment Advisors Robert Greenbaum, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, School of Public Policy and Management, The Ohio State University Allen Proctor, Ph.D., Consultant in Public Sector Budgeting and Finance

Hugh J. Dorrian, City Auditor, City of Columbus

Joel Taylor, Finance Director, City of Columbus

Mary Austin, Council Budget Officer, City of Columbus

The Committee issued its final report to Mayor Michael B. Coleman and City Council President Matthew D. Habash on October 15, 2001.

Recommended revenue enhancements were:

- Increase in parking ticket fines. This recommendation has been implemented via Council legislation and took effect April 1, 2002
- Increase in Municipal Court costs and fines. The Court has implemented certain increases effective January 2002.
- Review license fees, permit fees and other possible charges. All fees regarding building permits, plans, inspections, etc. are
 now established on a basis to support all operating costs of providing such service. Other fees and permits are also being
 reviewed for increased rates.
- Short-term car rental tax. Columbus presently is one of very few large cities not having such a tax.
- Third party reimbursement for emergency medical transport.

All five of the recommendations were implemented by the City. The short-term car rental tax, after being placed on the ballot via a referendum petition, was repealed by a majority of the City's voters. The other four recommendations remain implemented.

• E-payment engine

The City is embarking on the development and implementation of new technology to augment and enhance how the City accepts various payments. The City's Department of Technology is leading the City in the development and implementation of the "Electronic Payment Engine". It is intended that the "E-Payment Engine" will provide all City departments, agencies and offices with a single, standard method for accepting and processing credit card payments made by citizens over the Internet for various City services. Initially, the engine is scheduled to process credit card payments for parking violations, recreational fees and birth certificates. It is also intended that the engine will integrate the accounting of this revenue into the City's accounting system so as to ensure rapid, efficient and proper accountability. Enhanced City services accessibility benefits are associated with implementing the "E-Payment Engine"; citizens will be able to acquire City services on a 24 hour by 7 days a week basis.

• Continued development occurs.

- The Arena District in downtown Columbus continues to develop. Site of the National Hockey League team, the Columbus Blue Jackets, additional office buildings, one nearing completion, are presently under construction.
- Easton, a major commercial and residential complex in the northeast quadrant of the City will soon begin an expansion.

• Containing costs

- In 2002 revenues and expenditures of the City's Building Services division were accounted for in the Development Services Special Revenue Fund whereas this activity had previously been accounted for in the General Fund. Costs related to building permits, inspections, contractors licensing, etc. were not necessarily supported by related revenues. The goal, therefore, was to provide quality service with an identified revenue stream that supported the related costs of the service. On the City's budget basis of accounting, explained in the notes to the required supplementary information, the Development Services Special Revenue Fund had revenues of \$22.1 million and expenditures of \$20.3 million. Support from the General Fund is no longer required.
- Costs were contained by added controls over hiring personnel. The City, at December 31, 2002, had 210 fewer employees than at December 31, 2001. Modest increases of 16 firefighters and 17 police officers were then offset by a decrease of 210 civilian personnel throughout the City. The decrease was accomplished through attrition. This cost containment effort will continue, with the possibility of layoffs in 2003.

PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE

While the recent economy has brought its challenges, the City's future continues to be bright.

- The economic strength of Columbus lies in the imagination and inventiveness of its people. The presence in Columbus of
 institutions of education such as The Ohio State University, Columbus State Community College, Ohio Dominican College,
 Capital University, Franklin University, Otterbein College, DeVry Institute, Columbus College of Art and Design and others,
 assure Columbus of a talented work force for continued economic development.
- Unemployment continues to be low when compared to state and national levels. Stability of the City's work force, due to its high government, education and other service-oriented employment, would indicate a continuance of this comparison.
- The City continues to enjoy major developments, both residential and commercial, in the downtown and throughout the City,

indicative of continued economic activity and a quality living experience.

 Population continues to grow. The U.S. Bureau of the Census indicated 711,470 inhabitants in Columbus in 2000 compared to 632,910 in 1990, an increase of 12.4% in the decade. The Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission estimates the population of Columbus at December 31, 2002 to be 726,601.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Accounting system and budgetary control:

The City's Charter states that the Mayor and the Auditor, officials separately elected and independent of each other, shall supervise all departmental expenditures and shall keep such expenditures within appropriations. The Auditor performs a pre-audit of the City's expenditures. Post-audits are performed by independent certified public accountants, not only of the City's financial activities, but also of grant monies expended by private and quasi-public agencies acting as subgrantees of the City.

The Charter mandates other checks and balances. The most important of these, as it relates to the City's financial stability and credit worthiness, states that no contract, agreement, or other obligation involving the expenditure of money shall be entered into, nor shall any legislation be passed by the Council, unless the Auditor first certifies that money required for the obligation is in the Treasury to the credit of the fund from which the expenditure is to be paid, or is in the process of collection.

The City's fiscal accounting system also provides for checks and balances between the Auditor and the Treasurer. A reconciliation between the two offices' records as of December 31, 2002 is shown later in this letter under *Cash management*.

Budgetary control is maintained at Object Level One for each division within each fund via legislation approved by the Council. The various objects are:

01	Personal services	05	Other
02	Materials and supplies	06	Capital outlay
03	Contractual services	07	Interest on debt
04	Debt principal payments	10	Transfers

Lower object levels two and three are accounted for and reported internally. Estimated amounts must be encumbered prior to release of purchase orders or other contracts to vendors. Encumbrances in excess of the available object level one appropriation are not approved unless additional appropriations are authorized. Except for Capital Projects Funds and grants (initial appropriations continue until expended or modified by Council), unencumbered appropriations lapse at the end of each fiscal (calendar) year.

The City's management is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure designed to ensure that the assets of the government are protected from loss, theft, or misuse, and to ensure that adequate accounting data is compiled to allow for the preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. The internal control structure is designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that these objectives are met.

The Council authorizes appropriations, both original and supplemental. Supplemental appropriations are common. Appropriations are further explained in Note A.

Internal controls:

Internal controls begin with separation of powers; separately elected officials such as Mayor, Council, City Attorney, and City Auditor. A structure of departments and divisions where duties are separated to the extent practicable also provides controls. An independent Civil Service Commission establishes hiring (and firing) policies. Disbursements by the Treasurer can only be pursuant to a warrant of the City Auditor. Warrants can only be issued pursuant to written authorization of a department director. These and other control features are prescribed by the City's Charter.

General Fund:

The growth in both population and land area that the City experiences continues to exert demands for its services. The General Fund balance at December 31, 2002 equates to 10.9% (GAAP) of expenditures and transfers out for 2002. A five-year comparison of its General Fund activity follows. Five-year comparisons, as compared to a shorter period, will assist the reader in more meaningful analyses. The revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balance shown in these comparisons are presented on the modified accrual basis of accounting as applicable to government.

General Fund
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
1998-2002
(in thousands)

		2002	2001	2000	<u>1999</u>	1998
Revenues:						
Income taxes	\$	326,612	326,259	315,610	308,223	286,034
Property taxes		41,520	40,881	39,049	34,403	33,495
Investment earnings		13,260	27,060	32,745	17,821	19,777
Licenses and permits		1,150	11,538	10,700	11,972	9,692
Shared revenues		56,679	61,932	61,982	56,661	57,317
Charges for services		27,794	26,758	27,099	24,420	24,764
Fines and forfeits		15,522	12,924	12,591	12,468	12,766
Miscellaneous	_	8,575	5,651	11,234	4,339	16,636
Total revenues	_	491,112	513,003	511,010	470,307	460,481
Expenditures:						
General government		67,059	65,781	58,116	53,327	58,933
Public service		51,411	54,860	49,003	46,971	43,114
Public safety		352,147	339,129	319,831	287,800	261,675
Development		20,486	29,800	27,165	25,567	20,809
Health		163	-	-	· -	-
Recreation and parks		420	_	-	-	-
Capital outlay	_	2,958	3,181	7,552	8,486	10,721
Total expenditures	_	494,644	492,751	461,667	422,151	395,252
Excess of revenues over expenditures	_	(3,532)	20,252	49,343	48,156	65,229
Other financing sources (uses):						
Transfers in (out):						
Tipping fees		13,659	15,701	11,343	10,878	10,328
Helicopters		651	-	1,270	1,002	2,325
Other		112	-	-	-	
Health		(17,420)	(19,499)	(20,560)	(19,027)	(17,230)
Recreation and parks		(27,167)	(29,760)	(29,586)	(27,739)	(27,151)
Other	_	(2,810)	(3,242)	(4,109)	(4,967)	(4,788)
Total other financing sources (uses)	_	(32,975)	(36,800)	(41,642)	(39,853)	(36,516)
Excess (deficit) of revenues and						
other financing sources over						
expenditures and other financing uses		(36,507)	(16,548)	7,701	8,303	28,713
Fund balance at beginning of year		95,365	111,913	104,212	95,909	67,196
Fund balance at end of year	\$	58,858	95,365	111,913	104,212	95,909
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Revenue narrative:

Brief descriptions of the City's major revenue components follow.

Income taxes:

The City's income tax continues to be its primary source of revenue. The tax applies to all wages, salaries, commissions, and other compensation paid by employers and/or the net proceeds from the operation of a business, profession, or other enterprise activity. The initial tax rate of .5%, collected in 1948, was increased to 1% in 1956, 1.5% in 1971, and to the current 2% in 1983. Income tax rates of cities and villages within the State of Ohio are limited to a maximum of 1%, unless specifically approved by a majority of the resident voters of the respective city or village. There are 562 cities and villages within the State of Ohio that now levy a local income tax. Rates range from .225% to 2.75%.

Local school districts in the State of Ohio are also permitted to levy an income tax, but only with the approval of a majority of voters within the district. Ohio has 611 school districts; 124 have an income tax. Rates range from 0.5% to 2.0%.

Approximately 84.8% of the City's income tax collected in 2002 were via employers withholding the tax from employees' earnings and remitting the tax to the City on a statutorily prescribed schedule. Approximately 10.4% of collections originated from business accounts and 4.8% from independently employed individual taxpayers. Depending on the amount withheld, employers must remit to the City on a semi-monthly, monthly, or quarterly frequency, with the largest amounts being remitted semi-monthly.

One quarter of the revenue from this tax is accounted for in a Debt Service Fund and is primarily used for servicing debt pertaining to non-enterprise type capital improvements. Tipping fees for disposal of garbage collected by the City are also paid from this fund on the City's budget basis of accounting. On the modified accrual basis of accounting, such tipping fee amounts are transferred to the General Fund and expended as public service expenditures. Three-quarters of income tax revenues are used for General Fund purposes. Income tax revenues on the budget basis represent 2002 collections of \$453.8 million less refunds of \$16.1 million for a net amount of \$437.7 million. Beginning in 2002 the City began designating certain collections (\$58,000) to defray collection agency fees on delinquent accounts. Income tax revenues on the modified accrual basis of accounting, net of refunds, were \$435.6 million and are reported in the following funds:

			(ın tl	housands)		
		2002	<u>2001</u>	2000	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
General Special Revenue Debt Service	\$	326,612 58 108,897	326,259 - 108,727	315,610 - 105,202	308,223	286,034 - 95,343
Total	\$_	435,567	434,986	420,812	410,964	381,377
% increase (decrease) over prior year		.13	3.37	2.40	7.76	9.14

Debt service funds in 2002 represent General Bond Retirement (\$90.837 million) and Special Income Tax (\$18.060 million). Both are major governmental type funds. A ten-year history of the income tax revenue and cash collections, net of refunds, appears in the Statistical Section of this report.

The City acts as collection agent for 9 other cities and villages in the central Ohio area. Fees collected by the City for these services totaled \$579,542 in 2002, and are accounted for in the General Fund as charges for services.

Property taxes:

Property taxes in Ohio are levied and collected by its 88 counties. The City lies partially within three of these counties: Franklin, Fairfield, and Delaware. After collection, the counties distribute portions of these taxes to the political subdivisions (cities, villages, townships, etc.) located within their geographic borders. Property taxes for the City represent a tax rate of approximately 3.14 mills (\$3.14 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation) applied to the assessed value of property located in the City. Assessed values represent approximately 35% of appraised values. This rate, 3.14 mills, has remained unchanged since 1956.

Increases in this rate can only occur with approval of the City's voters. Revenues from property taxes are used for General Fund operations, including a partial provision, 0.60 mills, for current police and fire pension costs. Revenues produced by this millage for the General Fund were:

	(in thousands)							
		2002	2001	2000	<u>1999</u>	1998		
General Fund	\$	41,520	40,881	39,049	34,403	33,496		
% increase (decrease) from prior year		1.56	4.69	13.50	2.71	5.15	%	

Assessed values of taxable property at December 31, 2002 within the City, in the counties in which the City is located, are as follows:

	(in thousands)
Franklin	\$	14,239,292
Fairfield		123,590
Delaware	_	188,198
Total	\$_	14,551,080

Total assessed values in the City over the past ten years are shown below. Values of Franklin, Fairfield, and Delaware counties are included in years where applicable.

Fiscal <u>Year</u>	For Tax Collection In Fiscal Year	Assessed Value (in thousands)	% Increase From <u>Prior Year</u>
1993	1994	\$ 9,178,539	6.90
1994	1995	9,266,927	0.96
1995	1996	9,483,390	2.34
1996	1997	10,130,785	6.83
1997	1998	10,483,853	3.49
1998	1999	10,972,327	4.66
1999	2000	12,397,530	12.99
2000	2001	12,939,074	4.37
2001	2002	13,107,854	1.30
2002	2003	14,551,080	11.01

Property tax collections have steadily increased over the period 1993 to 2002, with larger increases evident every three years. These three-year increases result from comprehensive reappraisals of property that take place every six years, and less formal triennial updates that occur the third year in between the six year reappraisals. Six-year reappraisals took place in 1993 and 1999, with the resulting increases in property tax collections occurring in 1994 and 2000. In 1996 and 2002 triennial updates occurred. Property taxes levied in 2002 but not collectible until 2003 are accounted for in the General Fund as accounts receivable and deferred revenue at an estimated amount of \$44.9 million. Additional data on property values and taxes appear in the Statistical Section of this report.

Investment earnings:

The City's investment policies are discussed later in this letter under *Cash management* and in Note C. This source of revenue is not conducive to year-to-year comparisons. Investment earnings are only deposited to the General Fund after all statutorily directed earnings are deposited to the appropriate funds: enterprise funds, grant funds, etc. Earnings for the past five years have been:

			((in thousands)		
<u>Funds</u>		2002	2001	2000	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
	_					
General	\$	13,260	27,060	32,745	17,821	19,776
General Bond Retirement		81	125	244	136	165
Special Income Tax		-	108	-	-	-
Other governmental	_	854	2,086	3,253	2,658	1,560
Total governmental funds	_	14,195	29,379	36,242	20,615	21,501
Fiduciary		-	-	-	-	15
Enterprise	_	6,393	8,024	7,544	7,700	9,993
Total	\$_	20,588	37,403	43,786	28,315	31,509

Licenses and permits:

Licenses and permits are issued by the City to regulate activities related to building, health, and other business enterprises. Increased collections in 1998 and 1999 are indicative of several major building projects in Columbus in addition to increases in the rate of fees in May 1998. Over the past five years, revenues in the General Fund resulting from licenses and permits amounted to:

	(in thousands)					
	2002	<u>2001</u>	2000	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	
Amount	\$ 1,150	11,538	10,700	11,972	9,692	
% increase (decrease) from prior year	(90.03)	7.83	(10.62)	23.52	24.18 %	

In 2002 revenues and expenditures of the Building Services division of the Department of Development were accounted for in a non major governmental (special revenue) fund. Prior to 2002 this activity was accounted for in the General Fund. The activity is now intended to be self sustaining with no other support from the General Fund. In 2001 such activity accounted for in the General Fund was \$9.570 million of revenue and \$9.997 of expenditures. In 2002 such activity accounted for in the Development Services special revenue fund was \$22.001 million in revenue and \$20.422 million in expenditures.

Shared revenues:

Shared revenues in the General Fund include the taxes listed below which are levied and collected by the state or counties and partially redistributed to the City and other political subdivisions. Provided below is a five-year history of the City's share of these revenues as reported in the governmental fund financial statement on the modified accrual basis of accounting.

	(in thousands)					
		2002	2001	2000	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
State income, sales, corporate						
franchise, and public utility taxes:						
Local government fund	\$	43,677	46,881	44,867	41,750	40,247
Local government revenue assistance fund		3,879	4,080	3,984	3,822	3,609
Estate tax		8,105	9,972	12,125	10,152	12,493
State liquor fees		982	964	968	901	931
Cigarette tax and other	_	36	35	38	36	37
Total	\$	56,679	61,932	61,982	56,661	57,317
% increase (decrease) from prior year		(8.48)	(.08)	9.39	(1.14)	18.39 %

The decline in revenues of the Local government fund and the Local government revenue assistance fund is directly attributable to effects of the nationwide and Ohio wide economic recession, thereby reducing the level of support from the state of Ohio to its cities.

Charges for services:

The City performs certain services for its citizens and other municipalities for which it charges various amounts. These services include impounding, storing and selling abandoned autos; fire and police protection provided to certain suburbs; parking meter fees; and various other services. Additionally the City's General Fund allocates certain citywide costs initially borne by the General Fund to certain other funds. These costs are allocated by charging certain other funds a statutorily approved rate of 4 1/2%, as determined by the City's most recent cost allocation plan, of their gross revenue.

These revenues in the General Fund over the past five years have produced:

	(in thousands)						
		<u>2002</u>	2001	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	
Amount	\$	27,794	26,758	27,099	24,420	24,764	
% increase (decrease) from prior year		3.87	(1.26)	10.97	(1.39)	3.97	

Fines and forfeits:

These revenues consist of fines and forfeits imposed by the Franklin County Municipal Court, and parking tickets issued by the City's parking violation's bureau. Increased "prices" for parking tickets and various fines in 2002 resulted in the significant increase in this revenue source during 2002.

				(in thousands)		
		<u>2002</u>	2001	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
Fines and forfeits	\$	10,656	8,804	8,382	8,326	8,724
Parking ticket revenue	_	4,866	4,120	4,209	4,142	4,042
Total	\$ =	15,522	12,924	12,591	12,468	12,766
% increase (decrease) from prior year		20.10	2.64	0.98	(2.33)	(3.97) %

Miscellaneous:

Miscellaneous revenues in the General Fund on the modified accrual basis of accounting consist of the following:

				(in thousands)		
		2002	<u>2001</u>	2000	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
77 · 1/ · · 1 ·		2.505	2.525	2.764	2.551	2 205
Hotel/motel taxes	\$	2,707	2,735	3,764	3,571	3,385
Refunds and reimbursements		5,755	2,266	7,146	636	12,905
Other	_	113	650	324	132	346
Total	\$	8,575	5,651	11,234	4,339	16,636

Refunds and reimbursements in 2002, 2000 and 1998 include nonrecurring refunds from the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation. Proportionate shares of the refund were returned to the respective funds from which the premium had been paid.

Expressed as percentages of total revenues, the major General Fund revenue components over the past five years are:

	2002	2001	2000	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
Income taxes	66.5	63.6	61.8	65.5	62.1 %
Property taxes	8.5	8.0	7.6	7.3	7.3
Investment earnings	2.7	5.3	6.4	3.8	4.3
Licenses and permits	.2	2.2	2.1	2.6	2.1
Shared revenues	11.5	12.1	12.1	12.0	12.4
Charges for services	5.7	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.4
Fines and forfeits	3.2	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.8
Miscellaneous	1.7_	1.1	2.2	0.9	3.6
Total revenue	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0 %

Transfers in narrative:

Transfers in represent amounts transferred from the Debt Service Fund to the General Fund for the purpose of paying tipping fees and the net cost of a new helicopter. On the City's budget basis of accounting, these costs were paid directly from the Debt Service Fund. Tipping fee costs appear as public service expenditures. The helicopter cost appears as capital outlay. Note P provides details of transfers.

Expenditure narrative:

The practice of transferring monies from the General Fund to the Health Department Fund and the Recreation and Parks Fund, both Special Revenue Funds, is a method used annually by the City to provide resources to these funds. It is appropriate, therefore, to consider transfers out in the following analysis of the General Fund. After combining transfers out with expenditures, the major General Fund components over the past five years are:

	(in thousands)					
		<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	2000	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
General government	\$	67,059	65,781	58,116	53,327	58,933
Public service		51,411	54,860	49,003	46,971	43,114
Public safety		352,147	339,129	319,831	287,800	261,675
Development		20,486	29,800	27,165	25,567	20,809
Capital outlay		2,958	3,181	7,552	8,486	10,721
Health		17,583	19,499	20,560	19,027	17,230
Recreation		27,587	29,760	29,586	27,739	27,151
Other (transfers out)	_	2,810	3,242	4,028	4,967	4,971
Total	\$_	542,041	545,252	515,841	473,884	444,604
% increase (decrease) from prior year	_	(.59)	5.70	8.85	6.59	7.97%

Transfers out narrative:

The City's General Fund provides financial support to its Health department (\$17.420 million) and to its Recreation and Parks operations (\$27.167 million). Financial activity of these two services is accounted for in Special Revenue Funds. Total expenditures reported in the fund financial statements for these services were \$38.678 million for the Health Department and \$71.696 million for the Recreation and Parks Department.

Other transfers out in the amount of \$2.810 million includes \$920,000 principal and \$1,086,388 interest transferred to the Debt Service Fund for payment of debt service due on the General Obligation Police and Fire Accrued Liability Pension Refunding bond.

Expressed as percentages, the General Fund expenditures and transfers out over the past five years are:

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
General government	12.4	12.0	11.3	11.3	13.2 %
Public service	9.5	10.0	9.5	9.9	9.7
Public safety	65.0	62.2	62.0	60.7	58.9
Development	3.8	5.5	5.3	5.4	4.7
Capital outlay	.5	.6	1.4	1.8	2.4
Health (transfers out)	3.2	3.6	4.0	4.0	3.9
Recreation and parks (transfers out)	5.1	5.5	5.7	5.9	6.1
Other (transfers out)		0.6	0.8	1.0	1.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0_%

Public safety, primarily police and fire services, continues to be the dominant expenditure function of the General Fund.

While not necessarily represented in each of the City's funds, expenditures by function used in this report represent the following City divisions:

General government:

- Mayor
- City Council
- · City Treasurer
- City Attorney
- Real Estate
- City Auditor
- Income Tax
- Municipal Court Judges
- Municipal Court Clerk
- Civil Service Commission
- Community Relations Commission
- Equal Business Opportunity Director
- Office of Education
- Finance Director
- Purchasing
- Human Resources
- Technology Director
- Information Services
- Telecommunications

Public service:

- Service Director
- Construction Inspection
- Engineering and Construction
- Facilities Management
- Fleet Management
- Refuse Collection
- Traffic Engineering and Parking

Public safety:

- · Safety Director
- Communications
- Fire
- Police

Development:

- Building and Development Services
- Department Administration
- Economic Development and Planning Services
- Housing and Community Services

Capital Outlay:

• Expenditures for capital assets with estimated useful lives of five years or more.

Health

• General Fund monies of \$17,420,000 were transferred to the Health Department in 2002.

Recreation and parks:

• General Fund monies of \$27,167,000 were transferred to the Recreation and Parks Department in 2002.

Public utilities:

- Public Utilities Director
- Storm Sewers

Other:

• Includes \$920,000 principal and \$1,086,388 interest transferred to the Debt Service Fund.

General Fund balances:

The City is required to maintain accounting records on a budget basis, as explained earlier in this letter. The Budgetary Comparison Schedule – General Fund presented as Required Supplementary Information immediately following the notes to the financial statements show the actual results of the budgeted general fund for 2002. A contrast in the two accounting methods and their impact on General Fund balances is shown below. A reconciliation between the General fund changes in fund balance on the budget basis versus the modified accrual basis is also presented on the Budgetary Comparison Schedule for 2002.

General Fund balances at December 31,		2002	2001	2000	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
Budget Basis:						
Designated for future years expenditures	\$	11,060	29,793	35,027	33,323	31,503
Undesignated	_	39,308	37,423	30,811	37,557	37,949
Total fund balance	\$ _	50,368	67,216	65,838	70,880	69,452
Modified Accrual - GAAP Basis:						
Reserved for encumbrances Unreserved	\$	11,633	17,347	27,317	21,148	17,606
Designated for future years' expenditures		39,573	37,884	35,521	33,660	31,811
Undesignated	_	7,652	40,134	49,075	49,404	46,492
Total unreserved	_	47,225	78,018	84,596	83,064	78,303
Total fund balance	\$ _	58,858	95,365	111,913	104,212	95,909

The following is a synopsis of General Fund revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balance, in order to further demonstrate the differing results of both the modified accrual - GAAP basis of accounting and the City's budget basis. Both bases are explained earlier in this letter and in Note A-Budgetary data.

(in thousands, except %) Revenues (2) (5) Expenditures (2) (5) **Fund Balance** Year GAAP % **Budget** % GAAP % **Budget** % GAAP Budget 1979 (1) \$ 115,930 \$ 117,021 \$ 118,419 \$ 118,371 \$ 4,595 3,053 1980 132,857 14.6 136,726 130,283 10.0 132,508 11.9 7,169 7,271 16.8 1981 138,209 143,557 147,505 1,821 3,412 4.0 143,646 5.1 10.2 11.3 1982 144,643 4.7 149,880 4.3 146,173 1.8 149,760 1.5 291 3,532 1983 160,615 11.0 164,481 9.7 156,673 7.2 164,861 10.1 4,233 3,152 1984 175,662 9.4 181,140 10.1 170,025 8.5 177,679 9,870 6,613 7.8 1985 (3) 201,253 10.1 195,213 7.8 193,299 13.7 193,989 9.2 17,824 7,837 1986 208,874 8.0 208,127 6.6 204,527 5.8 206,409 6.4 22,171 9,555 1987 226,704 8.5 231,140 11.1 217,881 6.5 222,790 7.9 30,994 17,905 1988 250,435 10.5 248,222 7.4 248,791 14.2 249,926 12.2 32,638 16,201 1989 261,017 4.2 261,238 5.2 263,445 5.9 264,799 6.0 30,210 12,640 1990 275,483 5.5 278,456 6.6 279,415 6.1 278,812 5.3 26,278 12,284 1991 288,615 287,923 3.0 2.9 286,867 4.1 3.6 287,026 25,222 13,873 305,956 302,909 1992 306,171 6.7 303,628 5.2 6.3 5.5 25,437 14,592 1993 336,320 9.8 319,006 5.1 329,245 7.6 316,937 4.6 32,512 16,661 1994 363,437 346,327 8.6 346,550 5.3 342,651 49,399 20,337 8.1 8.1 378,620 1995 4.2 371,842 7.4 366,322 5.7 355,862 3.9 61,697 36,317 2.9 1996 (4) 391,706 3.5 382,756 390,862 6.7 387,484 8.9 54,341 31,589 1997 8.4 407,210 6.4 411,799 5.4 42,065 424,654 396,734 2.4 67,196 11.5 14.8 8.0 10.9 95,909 69,452 1998 473,317 467,518 444,604 440,131 1999 1.9 0.1 104,212 482,187 467,761 473,884 6.6 466,333 6.0 70,880 8.9 2000 523,542 8.6 501,531 7.2 515,841 506,573 8.6 111,913 65,838 2001 528,704 1.0 6.2 545,252 5.7 531,444 4.9 95,365 67,216 532,823 505,534 502,990 (3.9)542,041 1.3 519,838 58,858 50,368 2002 (6) (2.6)(.3)

- Notes: (1) Calendar year 1979 was the City's first Comprehensive Annual Financial Report containing financial statements audited by independent certified public accountants.
 - (2) Revenues and expenditures include transfers in and transfers out, respectively, except for transfers within the General Fund [transfers to the Economic Stabilization Fund (none in 2002), the Anticipated Expenditure Fund (\$750,000 in 2002) and kilowatt hour tax transferred to the Electricity Enterprise Fund (\$3.133 million in 2002)]. Budget basis revenues also include lapsed encumbrances of prior years; an extraordinarily high amount of \$6.175 million in 2001 whereas amounts ranged from \$1.2 million to \$2.7 million annually over the previous five years (1996-2000).
 - (3) GAAP revenues for 1985 include a residual equity transfer of \$7.9 million which is excluded in % growth calculation.
 - (4) GAAP fund balance for 1996 reflects a reduction of \$8.2 million due to a restatement of prior year's fund balance.
 - (5) % columns represent % increase from prior year.

(6) In 2002 revenues and expenditures of the Building Services division were accounted for in the Development Services Special Revenue Fund. In 2001 a portion of these revenues (\$9.570 million) and expenditures (\$9.997 million) were accounted for in the General Fund Department of Development. These amounts have been removed from the percentage of growth calculations for 2002 vs. 2001.

Grants and subsidies:

Grants and subsidies received by the City are accounted for in the Special Revenue Funds, and Capital Projects Funds. The five-year history of the City's grants and subsidies reported on the modified accrual basis of accounting follow.

				(in	thousands)	
<u>Funds</u>		2002	2001	2000	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
Special Revenue Capital Projects	\$_	76,130 5,262	69,923 7,157	52,134 4,233	49,246 4,340	52,778 11,001
Total governmental funds	_	81,392	77,080	56,367	53,586	63,779
Proprietary—Contributed capital	_					27
Total	\$ _	81,392	77,080	56,367	53,586	63,806
% increase (decrease) from prior year		5.6	36.7	5.19	(16.00)	8.48 %

Grants received by the City, the primary government, in excess of \$2 million in 2002 follow. All were accounted for in governmental type special revenue funds.

•	Medical Assistance Program via the Ohio Department of Aging (CFDA 93.778)	\$	(in thousands) 22,009
•	Community Development Block Grant Program via U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (CFDA 14.218)		9,792
•	Ohio Department of Natural Resources Scioto Peninsula		6,709
•	Home Investment Partnership via U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (CFDA 14.239)		5,860
•	Ohio Public Works Commission Greenlawn Ave. Improvements		3,758
•	Enpowerment Zone Programs via U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (CFDA 14.24)	4)	3,473
•	Special Programs for the Aging via The Ohio Department of Health (CFDA 93.045)		2,607

- Women, Infants and Children programs
 Via U.S. Department of Agriculture (CFDA 10.557)
- Franklin County
 Franklin County Seniors Options
 2,200

Capital assets:

Capital assets are defined by the City as assets with an individual cost of more than \$5,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of five years. Capital assets, which include property, plant and equipment, and infrastructure (e.g. road, curbs, and gutters, streets and sidewalks, and drainage systems) are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost (for certain assets acquired prior to 1960). Pursuant to the implementation of GASB Statement No. 34, the historical cost of infrastructure assets (retroactive to January 1, 1979) are included as part of the governmental capital assets reported in the government-wide statements. Contributed capital assets are recorded at their market value at the time of contribution. Capital assets are further described in Note F.

2,545

Enterprise funds:

The City operates four enterprise activities: a Water system, a Sanitary Sewer system, a Storm Sewer system and an Electricity distribution system, which are accounted for in separate enterprise funds. As stated earlier in this letter, airport services are discretely presented in this report as a component unit of the City. Enterprise funds are used to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises—where the City intends that the costs of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges. The City accounts for its enterprise funds on the full accrual basis of accounting.

Following are the annual charges and rate increases (decreases) for the average Columbus resident/user of water and sewers over the last ten years. An average Columbus resident/user is defined as a customer using 12,000 cubic feet of water annually. Water and sanitary sewer charges are designed to provide resources for both capital and operating costs. Storm sewer charges are designed to provide resources for storm sewer operating costs (maintenance) and certain, but not all, capital costs.

	Water Sanitary Sewers		y Sewers	Storm	Sewers	-	Total		
Year	Annual charge	% increase (decrease)	Annual charge	% increase (decrease)	Annual charge	% increase (decrease)	Annual charge	% increase	Moving ten year % increase
1993	\$ 139.92	9.0	\$ 192.62	10.8	\$ 37.92	0.0	\$ 370.46	8.9	77.9
1994	153.72	9.9	207.44	7.7	37.92	0.0	399.08	7.7	89.8
1995	162.12	5.5	217.81	5.0	29.27	(22.8)	409.20	2.5	92.0
1996	168.12	3.7	224.35	3.0	19.68	(32.8)	412.15	0.7	83.6
1997	173.16	3.0	231.10	3.0	19.68	0.0	423.94	2.9	84.2
1998	179.64	3.7	228.70	(1.0)	19.68	0.0	428.02	1.0	85.9
1999	183.36	2.1	228.60	0.0	19.68	0.0	431.64	0.8	79.4
2000	183.36	0.0	228.60	0.0	26.52	34.8	438.48	1.6	68.9
2001	183.36	0.0	228.60	0.0	29.88	12.7	441.84	0.8	46.3
2002	183.36	0.0	228.60	0.0	32.70	9.5	444.66	0.6	30.8

The City's enterprises are not subject to rate review or determination by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio or any similar regulatory body. The City's Council has the necessary authority to establish appropriate user rates when needed. The rates are reviewed and established by the Council annually. The frequency and amounts of rate setting authority lies solely with the City's Council. User rates for the Water, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Sewer enterprises have been increased 5% in each of these enterprises for calendar year 2003.

Water:

The City's Water enterprise serves the residents of the City and the majority of suburban communities in the Columbus vicinity. The population of the service area is estimated in excess of one million persons. The Water enterprise serves 257,697 customer accounts, owns and maintains 2,479 miles of water mains primarily within the City and maintains an additional 843 miles of mains beyond the City's borders

The City obtains its raw water supply from rivers, reservoirs and wells. The enterprise conducted a regional water resource project titled *Water Beyond 2000* which is used as a guide to develop additional water supply, treatment facilities, and distribution components as dictated by increasing demand. Future supply requirements will be addressed through a combination of demand management efforts, expansion of the existing South Wellfield and construction of upground reservoirs along the Scioto River north of the City. All necessary land for the South Wellfield Expansion and the upground reservoirs has been purchased.

The Water enterprise operates three treatment plants. A summary of the historical pumpage over the last five years follows:

	(in millions of gallons)							
	2002	<u>2001</u>	2000	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>			
Minimum day	111	109	119	110	109			
Maximum day	216	203	184	209	193			
Average day	146	143	139	145	136			
Total year's pumpage	53,298	52,038	51,037	53,009	49,656			

The enterprise operates one of the most sophisticated water laboratories in the nation. The lab has maintained its EPA certification continually since the certification process began in 1976 pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974. On a semiannual basis, the lab must conduct various water study sample tests. The certification covers both equipment and personnel and represents a measure of quality performance. The staff is fully supported with state of the art equipment. Their primary responsibility is to assure that the Water enterprise is, and will remain, in compliance with all federal, state and local requirements.

A five-year comparison of certain Water enterprise data is shown below:

	(in thousands, except for number of employees)						
		2002	<u>2001</u>	2000	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	
Assets	\$	471,463	447,038	433,298	447,912	454,536	
	Ф	,	,	,	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	,	
Net assets		165,087	156,901	147,990	139,156	126,146	
Operating revenues		97,650	96,488	93,803	97,295	97,110	
Operating expenses		(80,109)	(78,679)	(72,781)	(73,420)	(69,821)	
Operating income		17,541	17,809	21,022	23,875	27,289	
Nonoperating							
Investment income		2,323	4,018	2,106	2,818	3,073	
Interest expense		(11,742)	(12,451)	(14,363)	(15,987)	(15,846)	
Other, net		64	(465)	69	2,304	(75)	
Change in net assets/net income		8,186	8,911	8,834	13,010	14,441	
Number of employees		539	544	547	576	593	

All bonds of the Water enterprise are paid from Water enterprise revenues.

Sanitary Sewers:

The City's Sanitary Sewer enterprise also serves the metropolitan area with approximately 253,490 customer accounts, both residential and commercial. Included in the total sewer system are 2,326 miles of sanitary sewers, 1,728 miles of storm sewers, and 204 miles of combined sanitary/storm sewers. The costs and related financial activities of sanitary and combined sewers are accounted for in the Sewer Enterprise Fund

The Sanitary Sewer enterprise operates two treatment plants. During 2002 treatment data was as follows.

	(millions of gallons per day)				
	Southerly Plant	Jackson Pike Plant	Total		
Minimum day	52.2	27.2	79.4		
Maximum day	177.8	101.0	278.8		
Average day	90.5	71.2	161.7		
Maximum capacity	200.0	110.0	310.0		

When the Jackson Pike plant reaches capacity the excess automatically flows through connectors to the Southerly plant.

A five-year comparison of certain Sanitary Sewer enterprise data is shown below:

	(in thousands, except for number of employees)						
		2002	2001	2000	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	
A	¢	1.057.591	000 402	021 126	025.269	026 029	
Assets	\$	1,056,581	999,402	931,126	925,368	926,938	
Net assets		462,967	444,199	431,509	412,821	397,490	
Operating revenues		121,904	115,652	116,570	117,041	123,268	
Operating expenses		(87,874)	(85,328)	(79,224)	(80,590)	(76,780)	
Operating income		34,030	30,324	37,346	36,451	46,488	
Nonoperating							
Investment income		3,409	3,585	4,488	4,069	5,832	
Interest expense		(19,598)	(20,757)	(23,145)	(25,110)	(25,501)	
Other, net		482	(462)	-	(79)	(16)	
Transfers in		445	-	-	-	-	
Change in net assets		18,768	12,690	18,689	15,331	26,803	
Number of employees (years prior to 2002							
(include storm sewer employees)		497	544	571	589	588	

All bonds and notes of the Sewer enterprise are paid from Sewer enterprise revenues.

Storm sewers:

Prior to 2002 the City's Storm sewer financial activity was accounted for in a governmental type special revenue fund. Beginning with 2002, Storm sewer assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses are now accounted for in a business type activity enterprise fund. The City intends that all costs of the Storm sewer enterprise be supported by user charges except for debt service, principal and interest, on bonds authorized by the voters in 1991 and prior. This amount in 2002 is \$3.102 million and appears in the enterprise financial statements as Transfers in. Final maturity on these bonds, all general obligation type bonds, is 2018.

The City's Storm sewer enterprise owns and maintains 1,728 miles of such sewers and has 189,831 customer accounts, all within the City's borders. Certain Storm sewer enterprise data is shown below.

(in thousands, except for number of employees)

	2002
Assets	\$ 106,095
Net assets	33,341
Operating revenues	21,218
Operating expenses	(14,903)
Operating income	6,315
Nonoperating	
Investment income	330
Interest expense	(3,395)
Transfers in	30,091
Change in net assets	33,341
Number of employees	34

Electricity:

The City owns and operates an Electricity distribution system and accounts for it in the Electricity Enterprise Fund. The system had its origin in the 1890's and generated electricity from burning coal. The initial sole purpose for its existence was to light the streets of the City. In response to environmental concerns, the City ceased burning coal in 1977 and ceased generating electricity. The City continued distributing electric power by purchasing all of its needed power from privately owned utilities.

After a lengthy construction period, the City's solid waste resource recovery facility, a refuse derived fuel power plant, with capital costs of approximately \$200 million, began operations in the fourth quarter 1983. On April 1, 1993, the City leased the trash burning power plant and related transfer stations (the Plant) to the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO), a separate and distinct political subdivision of the State of Ohio. The annual lease payments to the City were to be in the amount of the related debt service requirements on bonds that were issued for the construction of the Plant. This lease resulted in the removal of certain real and personal property assets from the Electricity Enterprise Fund with original costs totaling \$205.5 million of which \$3.4 million was transferred to the then General Fixed Asset Account Group. The lease was accounted for in the Electricity Enterprise Fund as a capital lease in accordance with Statement No. 13 of the Financial Accounting Standards Board, *Accounting for Leases*. Due to a series of federal court decisions and U.S. EPA decisions the Plant ceased operations at the end of 1994. The City then began, in 1995, to buy all of its power from sources other than SWACO. The City's Electricity distribution system has 13,269 residential and commercial customers.

As indicated above the Plant ceased operations in December 1994. The Plant no longer burns garbage nor generates electricity and therefore does not receive any income. It provides no service and produces no product. SWACO continues, however, to operate a landfill. The City is SWACO's largest customer at the landfill and in 2002 paid SWACO \$10.9 million for landfill tipping fees.

At the end of 1994, upon the closing of the Plant, its associated direct financing lease was no longer deemed to be an Electricity Enterprise Fund asset nor were the general obligation bonds related thereto considered an Electricity Enterprise Fund liability. The City, therefore, in December 1994 transferred the direct financing lease (the asset) and the general obligation bonds related thereto (the liability) to the Debt Service Fund and the then General Long-Term Obligations Account Group, respectively.

In 1984 the City issued \$70.0 million of Variable Rate Demand Electric System Revenue Bonds. Proceeds of the bonds were used toward the completion of the Plant. Bondholders, however, had first lien on all revenues of the Electric Enterprise. Even after the closure of the Plant in 1994, these bonds, because of the lien on all revenues of the enterprise, remained as liabilities of the enterprise. In 2001 these revenue bonds were converted, refunded, by the issuance of Governmental Type general obligation fixed rate unvoted bonds of the City. Since no claim on enterprise revenue remains and the related asset was long ago, 1994, transferred out of the enterprise, the remaining bonds of \$29.450 million outstanding at December 31, 2001 were transferred out of the enterprise in 2002 as a nonreciprocal interfund transfer.

As explained further in Note H the City and SWACO again amended the lease in 1998. The City agreed to continue to deliver its garbage to the SWACO landfill and to reduce the liability of SWACO to the City to 65%, as opposed to 100%, of the City's remaining Plant related debt service at January 1, 1995. SWACO agreed to ensure landfill capacity until the year 2025 and to institute a new garbage fee, which would be paid to the City. In 2002 the City recognized \$7.1 million of revenue from SWACO; accounted for as miscellaneous revenue (rent) in the Special Income Tax Debt Service Fund.

A detailed computation of the City's lease receivable at December 31, 2002 is shown in Note H.

Rates charged to customers are determined solely by the City's Council after recommendation by the Electricity Enterprise management. Council's determination is final and is not subject to review or approval by any other regulatory body. Rates are, however, subject to market driven competition provided by the private electric utility in the area.

A five-year comparison of certain Electricity enterprise data is shown below:

	(in thousands, except for number of employees)							
		2002	<u>2001</u>	2000	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>		
Assets	\$	84,662	86,818	99,943	99,639	97,497		
Net assets		45,935	14,020	13,027	3,938	(985)		
Operating revenues		56,168	52,560	50,590	47,378	44,614		
Operating expenses		(53,176)	(50,758)	(44,122)	(49,860)	(39,657)		
Operating income (loss)		2,992	1,802	6,468	(2,482)	4,957		
Nonoperating								
Investment income		331	421	950	812	1,088		
Interest expense		(1,015)	(3,138)	(3,840)	(3,460)	(3,899)		
Other, net		7	(92)	_	(48)	(186)		
Transfers in		29,600	2,000	5,511	10,100	-		
Change in net assets		31,915	993	9,089	4,922	1,960		
Number of employees		126	115	123	143	152		

Component Unit: Columbus Municipal Airport Authority (CMAA) (www.port-columbus.com)

CMAA is an independent, special purpose political subdivision of the State of Ohio. CMAA was created in August 1990, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 4582, Ohio Revised Code (ORC), as a body corporate and politic. On November 10, 1991, the transfer date, CMAA began operations under a use and occupancy agreement with the City for the purpose of providing air transportation to the general public. On this date the City transferred the use of all assets and liabilities of the Airport Enterprise Fund to CMAA. This transfer was recorded at the net book value. As a political subdivision, CMAA is distinct from, and is not, an agency of the State of Ohio or any other local governmental unit.

CMAA was governed by a nine-member Board of Directors (the Board) appointed by the Mayor of the City subject to approval of the City Council. CMAA administered an airport system comprised of Port Columbus International Airport and a reliever airport, Bolton Field Airport. Therefore, CMAA was a component unit of the City whose financial statements are discretely presented in the City's Basic Financial Statements. Complete financial statements of CMAA may be obtained from CMAA's administration offices at 4600 International Gateway, Columbus, Ohio 43219.

On December 12, 2002, the City of Columbus, Ohio, the CMAA and the County of Franklin, Ohio entered into the *Port Authority Consolidation and Joinder Agreement*. The effective date of the agreement was January 1, 2003. The City via Ordinance No. 1620-02, passed November 4, 2002; the County via Resolution No. 1161-02, adopted November 19, 2002 and CMAA via Resolution No. 55-02, adopted November 6, 2002, authorized their respective appropriate officers to execute the agreement.

The agreement unites the operations of CMAA, created by the City in 1990, and the Rickenbacker Port Authority, created by the County in 1979 and dissolved by the County Commissioners via this action. The new entity is titled the *Columbus Regional Airport Authority (CRAA)*. The board of directors of the CRAA shall be its governing body and shall consist of nine (9) members; four (4) appointed by the Mayor of the City of Columbus, four (4) by the County Commissioners of Franklin County and one (1) jointly by the Mayor and the County Commissioners.

Beginning January 1, 2003 the CRAA will be characterized as a Joint Venture of the City and the County whereas, the CMAA is a component unit of the City through December 31, 2002.

Outstanding bonds at December 31, 2002 for airport activities are comprised of \$18,445,000 of general obligation bonds of the City and \$122,017,000 of CMAA revenue bonds. Airport revenue bonds are a liability solely of CMAA and not of the City. CMAA pays the principal and interest on the general obligation bonds via rent payments to the City on the same dates and in the same amounts as the general obligation bond debt service requirements.

A five-year comparison of CMAA component unit data is shown below (fiscal years 2000 and 2001 reflect the implementation of GASB Statement No. 34):

	(in thousands)						
		2002	2001	2000	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	
	ф	464 421	446 146	422.104	407.762	200.405	
Assets	\$	464,431	446,146	433,104	407,762	389,495	
Net Assets / Fund equity		301,037	279,078	265,211	235,308	212,795	
Operating revenues		50,439	55,453	52,390	41,560	40,753	
Operating expenses		(46,931)	(53,628)	(39,222)	(28,764)	(26,334)	
Operating income		3,508	1,825	13,168	12,796	14,419	
Nonoperating revenue (expenses), net		9,664	3,709	9,083	(3,329)	(2,360)	
Income before capital contributions/Net income		13,172	5,534	22,251	9,467	12,059	
Capital contributions		8,787	8,333	7,651	-	-	
Increase in Net Assets		21,959	13,867	29,902	-	-	

Additional data on the City's enterprise activities are shown in the Notes and in the Statistical Section of this report.

Debt administration:

Summary of outstanding notes and bonds payable:

The City's outstanding notes and bonds represent indebtedness for capital needs only, except for the Police and Firemen's Disability and Pension Fund Employers Accrued Liability Refunding Bond (P&F Bond), (\$21,630,000) an unvoted general obligation bond accounted for in governmental type debt, and the FNMA Single Family Mortgage Revenue Note (\$66,500). Notes payable and long-term obligations are explained further in Note G. Following are some pertinent data, both current and historical, regarding the City's outstanding notes and bonds.

Ratings:

In 1995 both Standard & Poor's Corporation and Moody's Investors Service, Inc. raised their credit ratings of the City's general obligation bonds to AAA and Aaa, respectively. The City's bond ratings are further described in MD&A in the financial section and on Table 29 in the Statistical Section of this report. More information on the City's outstanding bonds and notes appears in Note G.

Sources of Repayment:

Long-term Notes and Bonds and loans payable; exclusive of the obligation under capitalized lease (Note J) of \$2.600 million; in the total amount of \$1.898 billion will be repaid from the following sources:

Source/Description		Amount (in thousands)		<u>%</u>
Debt Service Fund:				
General obligation: Voted-unlimited fixed interest rate		\$	495,984	26.1 %
	Voted-unlimited variable interest rate		25,685	1.4
	Unvoted-limited		217,819	11.5
	Unvoted-limited/assessment		258	0.0
Revenue:	Fixed Interest Rate		30,605	1.6
	Variable Interest Rate		6,300	0.3
	Note-long-term fixed interest rate		1,221	0.1
Total Debt Service Fund			777,872	41.0
Housing mortgage rever	nue payments:			
Single Family Mortgage Revenue Note (FNMA)			66	0.0
Total housing mortgage revenue payments			66	0.0
Internal Service Funds:				
Information service	es:			
General obligation: Unvoted-limited			3,775	0.2
Fleet management:				
General obligation: Unvoted-limited			510	0.0
Total Internal Service Funds			4,285	0.2

Enterprise Funds: Water revenues: General obligation: Voted-unlimited fixed interest rate 141,216 7.5 44,555 2.3 Voted-unlimited variable interest rate Unvoted-limited 58,743 3.1 48,790 2.6 Revenue: Fixed interest rate Total Water 293,304 15.5 Sanitary sewer revenues: General obligation: Voted-unlimited fixed interest rate 190,628 10.0 Unvoted-limited 28,356 1.5 Unvoted-limited/assessment 546 0.0 71,640 Revenue: Fixed interest rate 3.8 Variable interest rate 51,600 2.7 OWDA/EPA loans 237,625 12.5 580,395 **Total Sanitary Sewer** 30.5 Storm sewer revenues: General obligation: Voted-unlimited fixed interest rate 58,991 3.1 Voted-unlimited variable interest rate 4,955 0.3 7,198 Unvoted-limited 0.4 **Total Storm Sewer** 71,144 3.8 Electricity revenues: 0.9 General obligation: Voted-unlimited fixed interest rate 16,715 Voted-unlimited variable interest rate 6,375 0.3 Unvoted-limited 6,170 0.3

Unvoted-limited/assessment

Total Electricity

Total Enterprise Funds

Total Primary Government (City)		 1,757,867	92.6	-
Airport revenues:				
General obligation: Voted-unlimited fixed interest rate		2,815	0.2	
	Unvoted-limited fixed interest rate	15,630	0.8	
Revenue:	Fixed interest rate	122,017	6.4	
Total Component Unit (CMAA)		 140,462	7.4	
Total Reporting Entity		\$ 1,898,329	100.0	%

1,541

30,801

975,644

0.1

1.6

51.4

A recap of the bonds and notes follows:

	Amount (in thousands)	0/0	%	
\$	906,349	47.7%	68.2	%
	81,570	4.3	6.2	
_	340,546	17.9	25.6	_
_	1,328,465	69.9	100.0	%
	511,898	27.0	89.9	%
	57,900	3.1	10.1	
_	66	0.0	0.0	_
_	569,864	30.1	100.0	%
\$_	1,898,329	100.0%		•
	- -	(in thousands) \$ 906,349 81,570 340,546 1,328,465 511,898 57,900 66 569,864	(in thousands) % \$ 906,349	(in thousands) % % \$ 906,349

The general obligation bonds include those reported in the component unit—CMAA because they are general obligations of the City. Revenue bonds of CMAA, while not an obligation of the City (the Primary government), are included above for purposes of full disclosure.

Voted-unlimited general obligation debt represents debt authorized by a vote of the City's electors. The voters grant the City unlimited authority to levy property taxes to the extent necessary to pay this debt, both principal and interest. However, the City actually repays the debt, if Governmental Type debt from its Debt Service Funds and, if accounted for in an enterprise fund or the CMAA component unit, from the respective enterprise fund or CMAA revenues. Resources in the Debt Service Funds are primarily income tax with lesser amounts of certain recreation fees and special assessments.

Voted debt, therefore, carries a "double barreled" protection for its bond holders and represents, as indicated in the above table, 74.4% of the City's general obligation debt; 52.0% of its total bonds and long-term notes. It has long been the City's policy not to rely on, or impose, property tax levies to service its debt. The City intends to continue this policy.

Unvoted-limited general obligation debt represents debt authorized by the City's Council without a direct vote of the electors. As explained later in the *Debt Limitations* section of this letter, the City is limited in its property tax levying authority regarding unvoted debt. This debt is also repaid from the City's debt service funds and from enterprise fund and component unit revenues in the same manner and from the same resources as the Voted debt described in the previous paragraph. All of the City's special assessment supported bonds and notes are Unvoted-limited general obligation debt.

The City may, at its option, convert the variable interest rate bonds to a fixed interest rate. Furthermore, these bonds may be called at the discretion of the City under specified procedures on any interest payment date. Note G describes various fundamentals of the variable rate bonds and the City's obligations thereunder. The City has complied with all requirements of the bond agreements.

The revenue bonds accounted for as Governmental Type represents the City's Tax Increment Financing (TIF) bonds. The City's liability for these bonds is limited to resources, money, collected via the TIF. Such monies are accounted for in Debt Service Funds.

In conjunction with the issuance of the Water and Sewer revenue bonds, the City entered into various trust agreements with commercial banks. These trust agreements require that the City establish various funds for the cost of construction and replacement of property and equipment and repayment of debt. Restricted assets, consisting of cash, investments and accrued interest receivable, relating to the revenue bonds and certain general obligation bonds were held by both the City and bond trustees. These assets and related liabilities are identified as restricted in the City's financial statements contained in this report and further identified in Note G.

Bond and Note History:

Outstanding bonds and notes consistently represent the largest of the City's liabilities. It is meaningful therefore to show a longer history of this debt. At December 31 of each of the last ten years outstanding bonds and notes, including those of CMAA, were:

		(in thousands)	
	Bonds and	Short-term	
Year	long-term notes	notes	Total
1993	\$ 1,363,284	2,671	1,365,955
1994	1,421,080	1,919	1,422,999
1995	1,441,001	327	1,441,328
1996	1,472,950	313	1,473,263
1997	1,550,476	1,126	1,551,602
1998	1,727,458	81	1,727,539
1999	1,786,762	176	1,786,938
2000	1,819,875	1,541	1,821,416
2001	1,857,435	1,830	1,859,265
2002	1,898,329	-	1,898,329

Per capita debt:

Data on the net general bonded debt of the City for the period 1993 through 2002 appears in the Statistical Section of this report. Such data at December 31 for the last five years is shown below. Population used in the calculations represents estimates by the Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission for 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002 and the U.S. Census Bureau for 2000. Bonded debt includes long-term notes but excludes the capitalized lease of \$2.6 million.

			(dollar amounts in the	housands, except per	capita debt)	
		2002	2001	2000	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
Gross bonded debt	\$	1,898,329	1,857,435	1,819,875	1,786,762	1,727,458
Less Debt Service Funds for G.O. debt		(165,985)	(160,083)	(148,677)	(135,216)	(118,942)
Less TIF revenue bonds		(36,905)	(34,050)	(30,050)	(30,050)	-
Less TIF revenue long-term note		(1,221)	-	-	-	-
Less FNMA revenue note		(66)	(88)	(117)	(589)	(600)
Less payable from enterprise revenues:		, ,	, ,	, ,	, ,	, ,
General obligation bonds						
Water		(244,514)	(228,592)	(218,966)	(237,718)	(255,150)
Sanitary Sewer		(219,530)	(227,204)	(196,991)	(216,984)	(234,319)
Storm Sewer (excludes \$19.372 million						
supported by income tax revenues)		(51,772)	-	-	-	-
Electric		(30,801)	(63,758)	(35,921)	(37,262)	(39,656)
Revenue bonds and OWDA/EPA loans						
Water		(48,790)	(53,185)	(57,205)	(60,950)	(62,765)
Sanitary Sewer		(360,865)	(317,092)	(291,638)	(284,402)	(282,354)
Electric		-	-	(44,600)	(47,600)	(50,300)
Less payable by CMAA:						
General obligation bonds		(18,445)	(23,435)	(28,430)	(33,395)	(37,960)
Revenue bonds	_	(122,017)	(124,031)	(122,165)	(122,835)	(123,475)
Net general bonded debt	\$	597,418	625,917	645,115	579,761	521,937
Assessed property value	\$	14,551,080	13,107,854	12,939,074	12,397,530	10,972,327
% of net general bonded debt						
to assessed value		4.11%	4.78%	4.99%	4.68%	4.76%
Population		726,601	720,230	711,470	698,495	696,849
Net general bonded debt per capita	\$	822.21	869.05	906.74	830.01	749.00

Debt limitations:

The City is within all of its legal debt limitations, as described in Note G and in MD&A. More data regarding the City's notes payable and long-term obligations appear in Note G. Table 29 in the Statistical Section of this report contains data necessary to meet the disclosure requirements of Rule 15c2-12(b)(5)(i)(C) and (D) of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Cash management:

Depository Commission and Treasury Investment Board:

The City's Treasury Investment Board and Depository Commission are entities created by the Columbus City Codes, local legislation. Both entities consist of the City Treasurer, Chairman; City Auditor, Secretary; and Finance Director, member. The entities, therefore, provide checks and balances in the investing and depositing process. The Treasurer is appointed by the City Council, the Auditor is a separately elected position, and the Finance Director is appointed by the Mayor. Formal legislation, Columbus City Codes Sections 321 and 325 set forth the duties and limitations of the entities.

Investment policies:

The City pools its cash, except for that held by revenue bond trustees, fiscal and escrow agents and certain Debt Service and Agency Funds, for maximum investing efficiency. Each fund type's portion of the pool is reported on the combined balance sheet as *Cash and investments with treasurer*. Earnings on the pool are allocated at the discretion of City Council after meeting the revenue bond indenture and other requirements.

The City does not purchase any form of derivatives. The City does not engage in reverse repurchase agreements, nor does it leverage its investment portfolio in any manner. Only eligible investments with remaining terms not greater than 2 years until final maturity are purchased. Average days to maturity of the City's investments, exclusive of those held by bond trustees, at December 31, 2002 was 424.2 days. The City purchases investments only through member banks of the Federal Reserve System or broker-dealers registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. The City's investment code and practices have consistently protected the portfolio from unnecessary credit risks (safety) and market risks (liquidity) while providing a competitive yield. The City's investment policies are further explained in Note C.

Permissible investments:

Permissible investments for the City's portfolio are limited to:

- Bonds, notes or other obligations of the United States government or its agencies for which the faith of the United States is pledged for the payment of principal and interest thereon.
- Bonds, notes, debentures, or other obligations issued by certain federal government sponsored enterprises.
- The Ohio State Treasurer's Asset Reserve Fund (STAR Ohio) pursuant to Ohio R.C. 135.45.
- Bonds or other obligations of the City of Columbus, Ohio.
- Obligations of the State of Ohio or any of its political subdivisions not in default of principal or interest and which have been approved as to their validity by nationally recognized bond counsel.
- Repurchase agreements that are collateralized with legally authorized securities as defined in Section 325.010 of Columbus City Code and held in third-party safekeeping designated by the City Treasurer and in the name of the City of Columbus.

Descriptions:

Brief descriptions of the investments held by the Treasury Investment Board and Depository Commission at December 31, 2002 follow:

(in thousands, except %'s)

(in thousands)

		Fair Value	
Description		Amount	<u>%</u>
Obligations of the U.S. government:			
U.S. Treasury Notes	\$	25,395	3.4 %
Obligations of federal government sponsored enterprises:			
Federal Farm Credit Bank Coupon Notes		39,096	5.3
Federal Home Loan Bank Coupon Notes		214,905	29.2
Federal Home Loan Bank Discount Notes		4,133	.5
Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. Coupon Notes		155,887	21.1
Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. Discount Notes		4,999	.7
Federal National Mortgage Association Coupon Notes		184,074	24.9
Federal National Mortgage Association Discount Notes		12,912	1.7
City of Columbus Brewery TIF bond		555	.1
STAR Ohio Investment Pool		74,140	10.0
Demand Savings	_	23,055	3.1
Total	\$_	739,151	100.0 %

A reconciliation of these assets between the financial statements in this report and those of the Treasury Investment Board and the Columbus Depository Commission follows.

	(in	thousands)
Investments with treasurer at fair value Auditor warrants not yet presented for payment Cash and cash collection items with treasurer, net	\$	739,151 (18,967) 3,242
Total primary government cash and investments with treasurer		
per financial statements	\$	723,426
Cash and investments with treasurer per Balance Sheet: Governmental Funds	\$	412,752
Cash and investments with treasurer per Statement of Net Assets		
Enterprise funds-unrestricted		131,122
-restricted		102,202
Internal Service funds		37,618
Cash and investments with treasurer per Statement of Fiduciary Assets and Liabilities		
Agency Funds		39,732
Total primary government cash and investments with treasurer per financial statements	\$	723,426

Safeguarding activities:

During 2002, all of the City's investments, except for investments with STAR Ohio, certificates of deposit and demand savings, were held in book entry form at Federal Reserve banks for the accounts of certain member banks—agents of the City who held the investments in the City's name. Based on criteria described in GASB Statement No. 3, *Deposits with Financial Institutions, Investments (including Repurchase Agreements), and Reverse Repurchase Agreements*, the City's investments are categorized as "Category 1," the most secured custodial relationship.

The City deposits its funds only with local commercial banks as approved by the City's Depository Commission. All deposits, except for deposits held by fiscal and escrow agents or trustees, are collateralized with eligible securities, as required by City ordinances, in amounts equal to at least 105% of the carrying value of the deposits. Such collateral, as permitted by state statutes and City ordinances, is held in single financial institution collateral pools at Federal Reserve Banks, or at member banks of the Federal Reserve System, in the name of the respective depository bank and pledged as a pool of collateral against all of the public deposits it holds or as specific collateral held at a Federal Reserve Bank in the name of the City.

The revenue bond agreements of the Water and Sewer enterprises require certain cash and investments to be maintained and managed by trustees. The respective trustees, bank trust departments, invest these monies at the direction of the City Auditor pursuant to the revenue bond agreements.

All of the City's deposits and investments comply with city and state statutes and applicable bond indentures. Cash, investments and the City's collateralizing process are further explained in Note C and are categorized therein in accordance with GASB Statement No. 3.

Risk management:

Property and liability coverage:

With the exception of CMAA and the Conservatory District, the City assumes the liability for most property damage and personal injury risks. Judgments and claims, including those incurred but not reported as of year end, are recorded when it is probable that an asset has been impaired or a liability has been incurred and the amount of loss can be reasonably estimated. The City does reduce its exposure to high risks, however, through various insurances and employee safety programs.

The City's division of Police operates a fleet of seven jet-powered helicopters. Five of these helicopters (models M/D 500E), valued at approximately \$1,000,000 each, are insured for both hull insurance (\$1million per helicopter with \$100,000 deductible) and liability insurance (\$10,000,000 per occurrence; \$1,000,000 per passenger not including crew; no deductible). The other two crafts (models Bell OH-58) are insured only for the liability insurance. One accident occurred in 1998 causing the City to pay the \$100,000 deductible portion of the hull damage claim of one M/D 500E helicopter. No liability claim resulted from the accident. No losses have occurred since 1998.

The City insures its buildings and their contents with a per occurrence deductible of \$100,000. This policy expires August 1, 2003. One loss of \$100,000 occurred in 2002.

Surety bond coverage:

Coverage	Amount	<u>Deductible</u>	Policy Expiration
Fidelity Bond	\$ 5,000,000	-0-	12-31-04
Fidelity Bond	5,000,000	-0-	12-31-04
Honesty Blanket Position Bond	25,000	-0-	12-31-04
Faithful Performance			
Blanket Bond	250,000	20,000	12-31-04
	Fidelity Bond Fidelity Bond Honesty Blanket Position Bond Faithful Performance	Fidelity Bond \$5,000,000 Fidelity Bond 5,000,000 Honesty Blanket Position Bond 25,000 Faithful Performance	Fidelity Bond \$5,000,000 -0- Fidelity Bond 5,000,000 -0- Honesty Blanket Position Bond 25,000 -0- Faithful Performance

The City of Columbus assumes all other risks of general liability and property/casualty claims.

Litigation experience:

As stated in Note B, the City is a defendant in a number of lawsuits pertaining to matters which are incidental to performing routine governmental and other functions. At December 31, 2002, claims approximating \$879.2 million (including 3 claims, a total of \$727 million, filed by pro se claimants) were outstanding against the City. Based on the current status of all these legal proceedings, it is the opinion of management that ultimate resolution of such will not have a material effect on the City's financial statements.

The City Attorney represents the City in all legal matters. Following is a summary of experience of the City over the last ten years of those claims resulting in litigation.

Period	Cases filed	Seeking	Cases closed	Seeking	Paid by <u>City</u>
1993	75	\$ 23,015,716	83	\$ 62,871,248	\$ 473,262
1994	117	224,834,669	218	73,065,819	726,534
1995	527	200,515,923	274	308,133,105	1,449,802
1996	587	374,030,995	253	360,217,314	1,895,454
1997	436	362,432,071	215	25,307,846	1,144,248
1998	300	95,962,919	369	383,901,846	3,055,966
1999	231	79,002,119	343	76,583,495	3,337,192
2000	255	111,909,000	279	498,431,450	1,098,284
2001	246	56,255,348	401	106,040,956	669,670
2002	291	831,062,292	282	93,173,415	1,285,529

Cases filed and cases closed subsequent to 1994 include those cases not seeking monetary damages. Cases filed in 2002 for \$831.1 million include \$727 million of claims filed by 3 pro se claimants.

The City Code permits department heads to settle and pay small claims against the City in amounts not to exceed \$2,500 per claim. The City Attorney can settle claims not exceeding \$20,000. Claims greater than \$20,000 require approval of a majority of the City Council. The above table represents only those claims resulting in litigation.

The United States Department of Justice (DOJ), in October 1999, filed suit against the City of Columbus. The DOJ claimed that the City's division of Police had engaged in a pattern or practice of civil rights violations. In 2002 the suit was withdrawn by DOJ with no specific monetary damages against the City resulting therefrom.

Other:

The City provides medical, dental and vision coverage for its employees on a self-insurance basis. Expenses for claims are recorded on a current basis based on an actuarially determined charge per employee. Financial activity recording claims and the payment thereof is accounted for in an Internal Service Fund.

Workers' compensation claims are covered through the City's participation in the State of Ohio's program.

Deficit fund equities:

As indicated earlier in this letter under *Accounting system and budgetary control*, the City Charter provides that no contract, agreement or other obligation involving the expenditure of money shall be entered into unless the Auditor first certifies to the Council that the money required for such contract, agreement, obligation or expenditure is in the Treasury, to the credit of the fund from which it is to be drawn, and not appropriated for any other purpose, or is in the process of collection.

Fund deficits may occur on the City's budget basis of accounting when encumbrances are allowed to be recorded against accounts receivable, usually grants. Revenues are only recorded from these accounts receivable when cash is received. The accounts receivable may, however, be considered as funds in the process of collection as described in the City's Charter.

On the modified accrual basis of accounting, a deficit exists in one nonmajor Special Revenue fund and one nonmajor Debt Service Fund. These deficits will be eliminated by future charges for services.

Fiduciary Operations-Employee Retirement Systems:

State and local government employees in Ohio, with few exceptions, are members of one of five retirement systems. These retirement

systems were created pursuant to Ohio statutes and are administered by state created boards of trustees. Boards are comprised of a combination of elected members from the respective retirement system's membership and ex-officio members from certain state and local offices.

These five retirement systems are:

- Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS), created in 1935, represents state and local government employees not included
 in one of the other four systems. Management of the fund indicates membership of approximately 402,000 actively employed
 members. At December 31, 2002 assets of this pension fund approximated \$48.9 billion. More data on this pension fund are shown
 in Note K of this report.
- State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS), created in 1920, represents teachers in Ohio's public schools from kindergarten through university level. Management of the fund indicates membership of approximately 160,000 actively employed members. At June 30, 2002 assets of this pension fund approximated \$47.7_billion.
- Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund (P&F), created in 1966, represents sworn personnel, not civilians, employed in police and fire divisions in Ohio's local governments. Management of the fund indicates membership of approximately 29,500 actively employed members. At December 31, 2002 assets of this pension fund approximated \$7.5 billion. All of the City's police and fire officers are members of this pension fund. More data on this pension fund are shown in Note K of this report.
- School Employees Retirement System of Ohio (SERS), created in 1937, represents non-teaching employees in Ohio's public schools.
 Management of the fund indicates membership of approximately 120,000 actively employed members. At June 30, 2002 assets of this pension fund approximated \$8.4 billion.
- State Highway Patrol System of Ohio (SHP), created in 1941, represents the state's highway patrol troopers. Management of the fund
 indicates membership of approximately 1,560 actively employed members and assets of approximately \$512 million at December 31,
 2002.

The City's civilian personnel are members of OPERS. All sworn police and fire persons are members of P&F. Both OPERS and P&F are multiple-employer public employee retirement systems. Following are the number of City employees covered under the respective state retirement systems at December 31 of the past five years.

	2002	2001	2000	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
Police (P&F)	1,827	1,810	1,795	1,793	1,760
Fire (P&F)	1,534	1,518	1,530	1,524	1,445
Civilians (OPERS)	5,424	5,634	5,644	5,696	5,548
Total employees	8,785	8,962	8,969	9,013	8,753

The relationship of the City's payrolls to the retirement systems is demonstrated in the table below. The City's total payrolls for the last five years were as follows:

	2002	2001	2000 (in millions)	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
Payrolls subject to OPERS Payrolls subject to P&F Payrolls not subject to pension	\$ 211.9 192.4	206.3 188.5	197.3 175.4	189.0 157.4	177.3 148.2
benefit calculation	6.3	7.1	7.5	5.6	5.9
Total	\$ 410.6	401.9	380.2	352.0	331.4

Over the past five years the City and its employees have paid the following amounts to PERS and P&F.

		2002	2001	<u>2000</u>	<u> 1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
				(in thousands)		
Paid by City to:						
OPERS	\$	46,457	45,208	37,655	41,370	38,787
P&F	_	55,560	54,255	50,909	45,175	42,550
Total paid by City	_	102,017	99,463	88,564	86,545	81,337
Paid by employees to:						
OPERS		268	286	314	304	292
P&F		5,049	4,989	4,510	4,200	3,955
Total paid by employees	_	5,317	5,275	4,824	4,504	4,247
Total	\$_	107,334	104,738	93,388	91,049	85,584

The City is current in all of its required contributions to the respective pension funds. The pension plans and other post-employment benefits for health care are explained in Note K.

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

Audits:

Financial statements of the City have been audited by nationally recognized firms of certified public accountants since, and including, 1979. KPMG LLP performed these audits for calendar years 1979 through 1985. Ernst & Young LLP performed the audits for the years 1986 through 1990. The City follows a mandatory rotation policy as prescribed by the Auditor of the State of Ohio. As a result of this policy and competitive proposals, KPMG LLP was selected to perform the audits for 1991 through 2000 at which time Deloitte & Touche LLP became the auditor for 2001-2005. All audits, 1979 through 2002, have been conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and, beginning in 1980, also the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

In the notes to Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs contained in this report, Deloitte & Touche LLP reports the following:

- An unqualified opinion on the City's Basic Financial Statements.
- No reportable conditions and no material weaknesses in internal control were disclosed as a result of the audit of the financial statements.
- No material non-compliance to the basic financial statements.
- No reportable conditions or material weaknesses in internal control over major programs.
- An unqualified opinion on compliance for major programs.
- No audit findings were required to be reported under OMB Circular A-133, section .510(a).
- That the City qualified as a low-risk auditee under Circular A-133, section .530.
- No findings relating to the Basic Financial Statements.
- No findings nor questioned costs relating to Federal Awards.

Deloitte & Touche LLP concluded, therefore, that the City "qualified as a low-risk auditee under Section .530 of OMB Circular A-133."

Deloitte & Touche LLP issued, separate from the CAFR, additional comments, commonly known as a management letter.

The numerous Notes to the Financial Statements are an integral part of the statements. The reader is encouraged to review them thoroughly.

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting:

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the City of Columbus, Ohio for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition for excellence in state and local government financial reporting. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government unit must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized comprehensive annual financial report, whose contents conform to program standards. Such comprehensive annual financial report must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year only. Columbus has received a Certificate of Achievement for the last twenty-three consecutive years, fiscal years ended 1979-2001. We believe our current report continues to conform to the Certificate of Achievement program requirements, and are submitting it to GFOA.

Use of the report and acknowledgements:

This report represents the twenty-fourth (1979-2002) Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the City of Columbus containing financial statements audited by a nationally recognized firm of certified public accountants. Approximately 500 copies of this report will be distributed. In addition to citizens in the community, the recipients will include city, state, and federal officials, university students, schools, libraries, newspapers, investment banking firms, banks, rating agencies, etc. This report is also available on the City's website. The Internet address is http://www.cityofcolumbus.org. The report will be made available to any person or organization requesting it. This extensive effort of preparation and distribution of this report fulfills the City Auditor's goal of full disclosure of the City's finances.

This report is issued by Hugh J. Dorrian, CPA, City Auditor. Special thanks and recognition go to Ms. Darlene Short, Chief Accountant and Ms. Vikki Amicon, Assistant Chief Accountant, for their exemplary efforts in the preparation of this report. All members of the City Auditor's staff and many of the City's other employees also contributed to this effort. They all have my thanks and respect for their work.

Respectfully submitted,

Hugh J. Dorrian, CPA

Auditor

City of Columbus, Ohio

HJD/jm

City of Columbus, Ohio

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Presented to

City of Columbus, Ohio

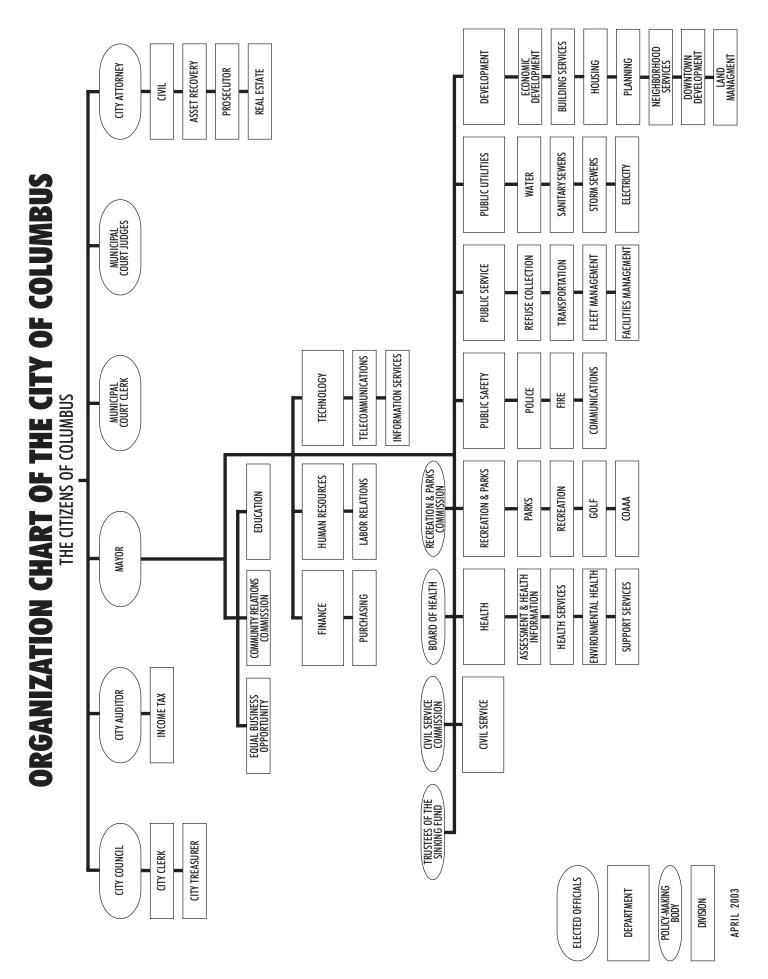
For its Comprehensive Annual
Financial Report
for the Fiscal Year Ended
December 31, 2001

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CAMADA SE AL TORONGO SE AL TOR

President

Executive Director



LIST OF PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS

MAYOR

Michael B. Coleman

CITY COUNCIL

Matthew D. Habash, President Kevin L. Boyce Michael Mentel Maryellen O'Shaughnesy Richard W. Sensenbrenner Charleta B. Tavares Patsy A. Thomas

CITY ATTORNEY

Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.

CITY AUDITOR

Hugh J. Dorrian, CPA

CITY TREASURER

Thomas M. Isaacs

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Joel Taylor

SECRETARY OF THE SINKING FUND

David Irwin

CITY CLERK

Timothy McSweeney

City of Columbus, Ohio

Office of the City Auditor Staff

Robert L. McDaniel Darlene Wildes Short Vikki Vincent Amicon Julie Burkart Timothy J. Carroll Mike Gore Deputy Auditor Chief Accountant Assistant Chief Accountant Assistant Auditor III Payroll Auditing Supervisor Administrative Analyst II

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Vivian James
Paul Kuppich
Brad Marburger
Jacqueline Marburger
Margaret McDougald
Jason Musick
Teresa Parr

Flor Rafiee Mary Raphael Kathy Rowe Charles Bruce Scott Tony Sestito Donna Thornwell Dan Wood



Hugh J. Dorrian, CPA City Auditor

Terms of Office

September 8, 1969	>	December 31, 1969
January 1, 1970		December 31, 1973
January 1, 1974		December 31, 1977
January 1, 1978		December 31, 1981
January 1, 1982		December 31, 1985
January 1, 1986		December 31, 1989
January 1, 1990		December 31, 1993
January 1, 1994		December 31, 1997
January 1, 1998		December 31, 2001
January 1, 2002	>	

City of Columbus, Ohio

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